

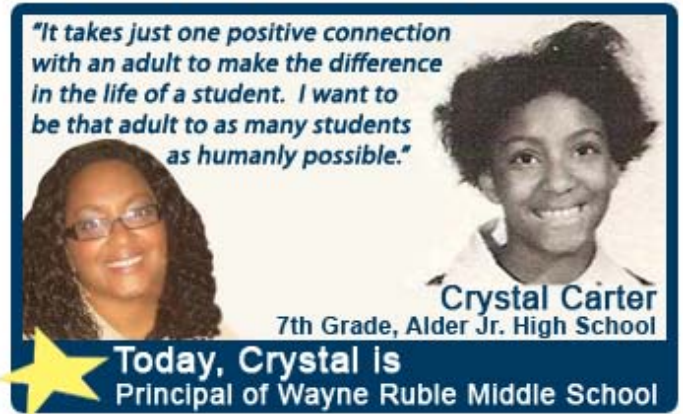
"Fontana Star" is our web series profiling district staff and alumni who are distinguished for their dedication on behalf of students, commitment to excellence and notable accomplishments in service of FUSD.



# Fontana STAR

## Crystal Whitley

shares how she is inspired



Profile in Excellence: Crystal Whitley, Principal of Ruble Middle School	
<b>FUSD Schools Attended:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alder Junior High School</li> <li>▪ Fontana High School (moved to Pomona prior to graduating)</li> </ul>
<b>Higher Education:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pacific Christian College, Fullerton (B.A. – Psychology)</li> <li>▪ Cal State University, Fullerton (B.A. – Liberal Studies)</li> <li>▪ Cal Poly Pomona (Teaching Credential)</li> <li>▪ Azusa Pacific University (Masters/Administrative Credential)</li> <li>▪ Cal State University, San Bernardino (Tier Two Administrative Credential)</li> </ul>
<b>FUSD Career Experiences:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maple ES - 4<sup>th</sup> grade (1990-92)</li> <li>▪ Alder Middle 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math/Science, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math, Peer Leader Advisor, Yearbook, Administrative Designee, Mentor teacher 3 yrs (1992-95)</li> <li>▪ Dean of School Improvement - Alder MS (1995-97)</li> <li>▪ Assistant Principal - Almeria MS (1997-99)</li> <li>▪ Interim Principal - Maple ES</li> <li>▪ Principal - Fontana MS (1999-2004)</li> <li>▪ Principal - Wayne Ruble MS (2004-present)</li> </ul>
<b>Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?</b>	<p><i>I have such fond memories of Alder Junior High (which was why it was such a honor to both teach and serve as an administrator there☺). When I think of my junior high days, names such as Mr. Yomans, Mr. Pickens, Ms. Davenport, and, of course, Dan Freiberg, come to mind.</i></p>
<b>What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?</b>	<p><i>My dad was a minister and my mother was a first grade teacher at Cypress Elementary School, so having both parents who were "teachers" it stands to reason that I too would one day find myself standing before others...teaching. However, never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine myself as an administrator. I owe this opportunity to my former principal, Lynette Forte'.</i></p>
<b>Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?</b>	<p><i>I really can't pinpoint just one experience or point in my career – there have been so many! Although, if I had to name the time I felt most honored it was when Superintendent Dr. Karen Harshman visited me at Fontana Middle and asked me to "open up" Wayne Ruble Middle School. I felt honored that she, along with the school board, had confidence in my abilities to open a new school after being a principal for just 4 years.</i></p>
<b>What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?</b>	<p><i>Wondering how to fit everything into one day and still find ways to make a positive and meaningful connection with my students. I love middle school kids...it is never a dull moment!!!</i></p>

<b>What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?</b>	<i>I think that there are those who think that teaching is easy and that anyone can do it!</i>
<b>What can the community do to strengthen public education?</b>	<i>To understand that we are human too, we don't have all the answers. To join us each day in educating our students by not tearing down education and public schools but to build us up and encourage those who stand before 35-210 students each and everyday. We could use support from the community by visiting classrooms, supervising at lunch and after-school, volunteering to tutor, serve as mentors, sit down and have real conversations with students about education, careers, life goals and respect for others.</i>
<b>What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?</b>	<i>I attempt to do the very best I can each day for the students of FUSD because I consider my job to be the ministry God has given me to do. It takes just one positive connection with an adult to make the difference in the life of a student. I want to be that adult to as many students as humanly possible. I will never forget the first time a student mistakenly called me "mom" what an honor and sense of pride I felt!</i>
<b>What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?</b>	<i>Perhaps that I play piano and use to direct my church choir when I was in junior high school at a small church here in Fontana.</i>

*If you know of a "Fontana Star," particularly one who was an FUSD alumnus, you can nominate him or her to be featured by emailing [webmaster@fusd.net](mailto:webmaster@fusd.net). Please provide your name, the name of the individual being nominated, contact information for both of you and a brief description as to why you think the individual qualifies as a Fontana Star.*